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TIGHTWIRE

publications

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

JUN 5 1979

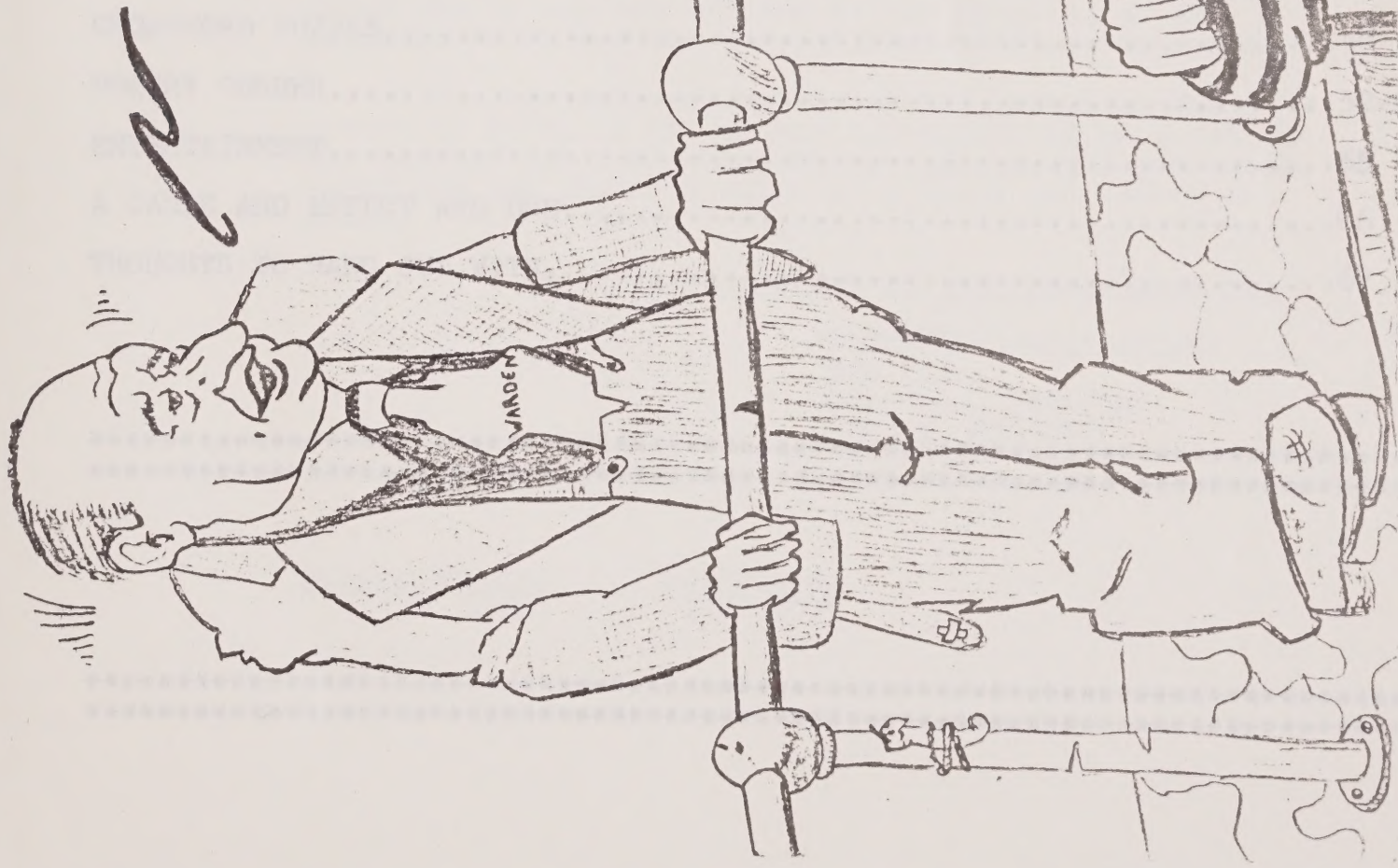
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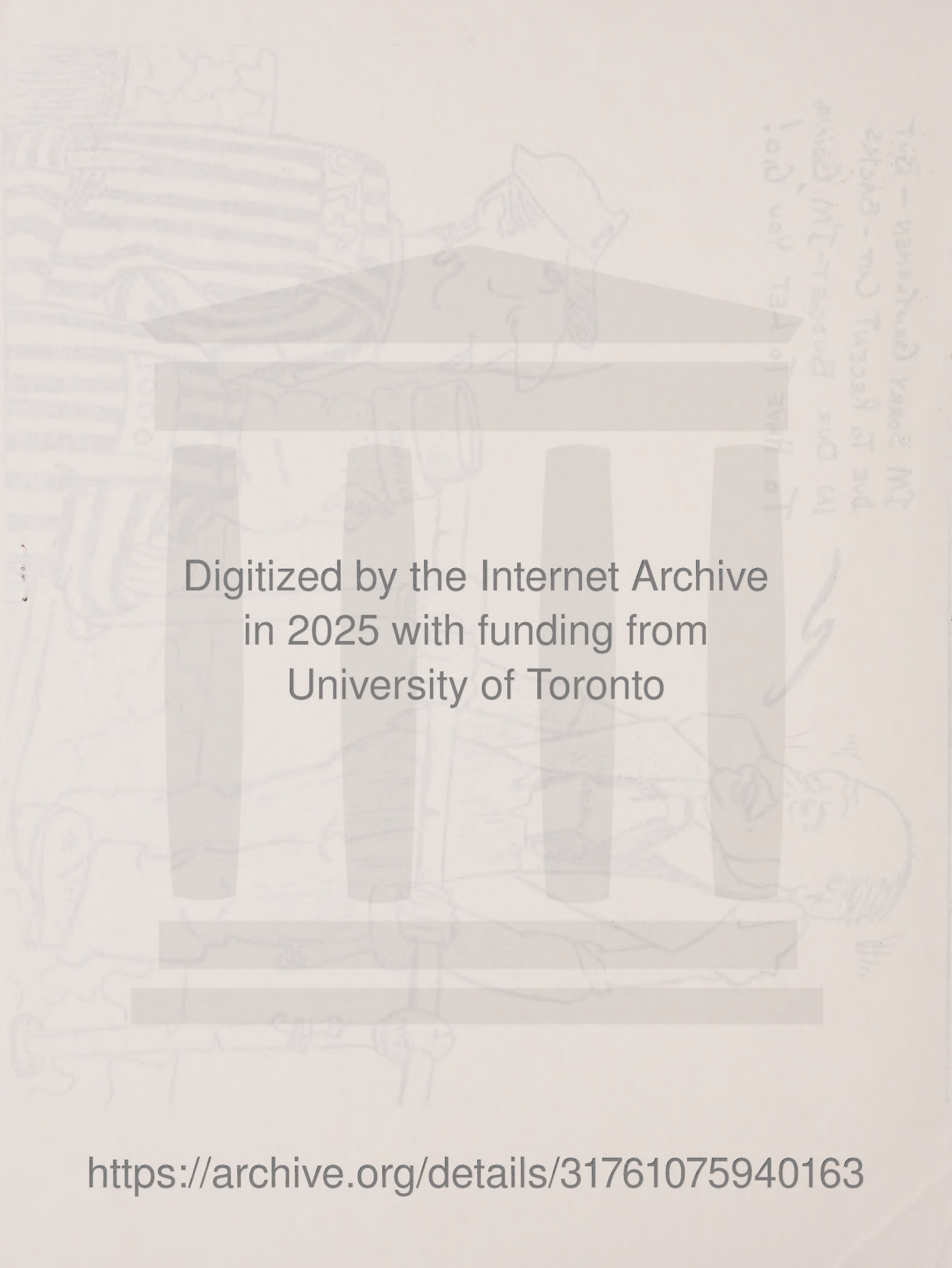


box 515
kingston, ontario,
canada. k7l 4w7

JAN / FEB / MAR / APR 79

I'M SORRY GENTLEMEN - BUT
DUE TO RECENT CUT - BACKS
IN OUR BUDGET - I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO LET YOU GO!





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TIGHTWIRE Staff

Editor: Judy Dupuis
Artist: Debbie Bailey & Sue Hopkins
Typist: Debbie Peet & Sandy Nord

TIGHTWIRE is published six times a year by TIGHTWIRE: Publications, Prison for Women, Kingston, Ontario. The contents are compiled by the inmates staff from a variety of sources: their own writings, those of other prisoners (both from the Prison for Women and other jails), newspaper and magazine articles and submissions from outside contributors. The views expressed are those of the particular writers or artist, which may or may not conform to the opinions of the Administration and the Correctional Services of Canada.

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Please address all correspondence to:

TIGHTWIRE Publications
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Canada, K7L 4W7

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MEMBER
COSMEP
COMMITTEE OF SMALL MAGAZINE
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS
BOX 703 SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94101

Editorial:

This is to inform you that due to the numerous subscriptions and the rising cost in postage, TIGHTWIRE will be upped to \$4.00 per annum. Also; due to this fact, it is financially impossible for us to send TIGHTWIRE to individual inmates. Please check with your library, which receives a free copy.

TIGHTWIRE is looking for an artist on a regular basis. Please check with Monica Freedman in Social Development. I'd also like the assistance of a co-editor. Check with Mr. Watt.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of TIGHTWIRE.

Please address all correspondence to:

TIGHTWIRE Publications
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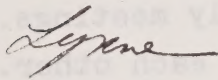
January 4, 1979

Ms. Sharon S. Murray
Editor
Tightwire Publications
Prison for Women
Box 515
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4W7

Dear Sharon,

Many apologies for the delay in submitting our advertising copy to Tightwire (my letter of October 11, 1978, and yours of October 31st). However, here it is, and we do appreciate you including it in your next issue of TIGHTWIRE.

Warmly,



Lynne Fernie
for FIREWEED

enc: Fireweed Ad.

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December 18, 1978

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Tightwire

Box 515

Kingston, Ont.

Tightwire;

Yep, I'm interested in subscribing to your paper.

Enclosed is the three dollar cheque.

I'm looking forward to receiving your paper.

Sherlyn Porter

329 West 11th Street

McMinnville, Oregon 97128

December 11, 1978

Tightwire

P.O. Box 515

Kingston, ontario

Canada

Dear People:

Mr. Julius Snowden, who is an inmate at the Oregon State prison, has been telling me about your publication.

I wish to subscribe. Enclosed is my cheque for \$3.00.

Sincerely yours

Bruce Combs



CONSEIL REGIONAL DES LOISIRS SAGUENAY-LAC-ST-JEAN

530, COLLARD OUEST, TÉL. 418-662-3495, ALMA, P.Q. - G8B 1N3

Alma, le 8 janvier 1979

Tight Wire Press
B.P. 515
Kingston (Ontario)
K7L 4W7

A qui de droit,

Vous trouverez ci-joint un chèque de \$3.00 pour un
abonnement à la revue Tight Wire.

Bien à vous,

Lise Lacroix
Lise Lacroix
Animateur socio-culturel

LL/so

P.J. Chèque

Dear Ms. Dupuis,

May I congratulate you on your newly appointed position as Editor of "The Tightwire Publications" I'll be looking forward to your first Editorial.

Thank you for your speedy reply, and I am glad you liked my poem. But I was sad to learn that my human didn't meet with your requirements for Publishing at this time. However, I enclose more of my material for your perusal "Four Gray Walls, Oh Please Set Me Free". "Pretty Little Angel Face"

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am awaiting your reply, for I have more of similar work which I would be happy to send you if you are interested.

Seasons Greetings to you and yours.

Most sincerely yours,
Bobby Vater 2163

Dear Ladies,

Hello again! Hopefully the contents of this communication shall be short and to the point. My reason for writing again so soon is due to haste in getting off the last correspondence to you. I neglected to enclose the name and address of a very beautiful person wanting to receive the Tightwire. Lately, this person has been very instrumental, (along with the new Catholic priest), in presenting something new to this God forsaking place... Drama Class! At present they are working on a Christmas play for both outside guests and the Prison population.

Several months ago I spoke with him about Tightwire it's origin, staff, contents and how fantastic it is.

So as stated at the beginning of this missive the purpose for writing is to send you the following address. (Address not in this letter, but I have it in my files)

I assure you he will not only enjoy reading Tightwire, but most likely will submit comments and articles (he was for 8 years a Professor in the English Dept. at Howard University in Washington D.C.). Hoping to hear from you beautiful people soon.

I am and always will remain
Yours in the struggle
Julius D. Snowden

Box 280,
Bath Ontario.
January 10, 1979

Editor,
Tightwire,
Box 515,
Kingston, Ontario.
K7L 4V8

Greetings:

I am Editor of the Odyssey Newsletter in Millhaven and am writing to you to congratulate you on Tightwire, undoubtedly, Canada's finest prison magazine.

In the past two weeks, the administration in Millhaven has supplied me with copies of the Joyceville Advance and the Outlook from Warkworth. This was a subtle hint that the Odyssey Newsletter should model itself in their style. After recovering from a case of nausea, which^{was} brought about by reading these so-called prison magazines, I searched and found a copy of Tightwire which I am forwarding to the Millhaven administration so they will learn what my concept of a true magazine looks like.

It appears that the women in Canada's prisons have more intestinal fortitude than the men in Canada's medium security prisons. Some people will do anything for a temporary absence, day parole, parole or transfer to a camp. The writers for the Advance & Outlook should be receiving all four if their writings in their "rags" have any bearing on their cases.

Although I send you copies of each of our issues, I have never received a copy of Tightwire. Can you rectify this? If possible, I will gladly subscribe.

Once again, my sincere congratulations on Tightwire. You renew my faith that there are some people left in prisons who aren't afraid to speak their minds.

George Watson
#3538 George Watson
Editor
Odyssey Newsletter
Millhaven Penitentiary

Feminine Focus
Denise Sassoon, Editor
P.O. Box 6850
Capitol Station
Phoenix, AZ 85005

December 6, 1978

Tightwire
Box 515
Kingston, Ontario
Canada K7L4W7

Dear Editors:

Recently, I ran across a copy of Tightwire and am writing to see if you would be interested in starting an exchange thing between ourselves and you. Enclosed you will find a copy of Feminine Focus which comes out monthly and ~~is~~ free. At the present time there are no funds available to us to recieve outside publications, so we were hoping that by sending our paper to you, we could get yours free of charge. Compliments to you and your staff on a fine, well done publication. Write and let us know what you think!! Keep smiling, it's the only way to beat 'em - hope to hear from you soon.

The struggle continues,

Denise Sassoon

Denise Sassoon, Editor
Feminine Focus

MARCH-2-1979.

TIGHTWIRE PUBLICATIONS
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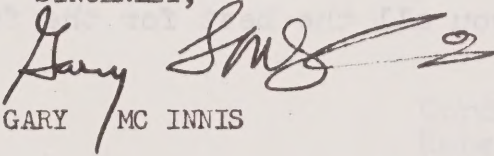
Dear Editors:

I want to let your readers know about a correspondence Bible study called "Discovering the Bible: Eight Keys for learning and praying." Each student receives personal attention from a teacher chosen to work with the interested party.

I don't believe in pushing religion on anyone. This course is for those people who are seekers and want to know something about the Christian Faith experience.

For details, please send your name to : FR. GARY MC INNIS
OREGON STATE PENITENTIARY
SALEM, OREGON...97310

SINCERLEY,


FR. GARY / MC INNIS

GMC:dw

P.S. PLEASE SEND ME A SUBSCRIPTION TO TIGHTWIRE. ENCLOSED IS (\$3.00).

To: COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN(or Newspaper Editor)

I am enclosing this letter to inform you that we here at Joyceville are interested in receiving your joint newspaper regularly. In turn we shall ensure that you receive all future issues of our monthly (we hope) newspaper.

You may notice that we have changed the name from the "Advance" to the "PENDULUM". We have a new inmate committee and a new editorial staff with an enthusiastic interest in publishing a quality newspaper. Along with our new cover and inside inside format we intend to upgrade the contents to articles pertinent and meaningful to all of us, whether we be incarcerated or free. We hope to have more articles contributed for future issues and we will endeavor to consistently improve on the content.

As well as exchanging newspapers, we hope that you will be able to trade ideas with us and keep us up-to-date on new policies and programs in your institutions that may be helpful to us here. We shall do the same from this end.

Wishing you all the best for the future.

Larry Walters
Chairman.

Greetings:

The primary purpose of this letter is to inform you of my change of address, however, of equal importance is to convey my sincere appreciation for your most proficient magazine. I have read many newsletters, books and other type of literature, being published, in a controlled environment and in my opinion, Tightwire Publications, is among some of the finest ever published. The articles are very interesting informative and whole some!

The entire Tightwire Staff deserve a round of applause for their outstanding performance of duty.

In conclusion,
Lynne Cassidy and Sharon Murray-Zakarian, will long be remembered for their contribution to Tightwire Publications, let's hope, the pleasure they have taken in our gain! will compensates the pain of our loss!

Judy, as our new editor, congratulation! Good luck in your editorial position.

Cordially,
Robert F. Payne, Jr.

329 West 11th Street
McMinnville, Oregon 97128
December 11, 1978

Tightwire
P.O. Box 515
Kingston, Ontario
Canada

Dear People:

Mr. Julius Snowden, who is an inmate at the Oregon State Prison, has been telling me about your publication. I wish to subscribe. Enclosed is my check for \$3.00.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Combs
Bruce Combs

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1979

Ron Birston
Box 891-BLK #1
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 2S7

To Whom It May Concern;

I'm an inmate at Headingley Jail and I would appreciate your news magazine as often as you publish it and any poetry you may have available.

I would also very much appreciate it if you could supply me with addresses of other institutional news, (U. S. A. or Canadian). I'm willing to pay for subscription.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly

Ron Birston

Do You Have A Problem?

Are You Confused?

Do You Need Advise????????????????????

Dear Madame Riot is available.

To Help and answer any problems or questions that are heavy on your shoulders. All letters will be answered in the next issue of Tightwire.

Drop Your Letters To:

Dear Madame Riot
C/O Tightwire
P.O. Box 515
Kingston, Ontario

P.4.W. inmates may drop their letters in the box at the front barrier. (#65)



Thursday January, 25, 1979

Dear Madame Riot;

I am writing to you because I am having a dream almost everynight and it never changes.

My dream starts off with my boyfreind and I, sitting in the backseat of a police cruiser, handcuffed to each other. We drive through a big, dark, tunnel and when we come out at the other end, I am sitting there all alone. The cops were taking **us** to a jail and we were going to do our time together in the same cell.

What I can't figure out is, what **happened** to my boyfreind and what is this dream supposed to mean?

Signed,

Frustrated

Dear Frustrated;

For one reason or another your dream seems to be telling you, your boyfreind doesn't want to do the time with or without you and I must say, I can't blame him. My advise is, find another sucker!

Yours Truly,
Madame Riot



Thursday January, 25, 1979

Dear Madame Riot,

My partner and I are very Much in love but we might have to end this partnership because she prefers BLUE CHEER and I won't give up my "TIDE". I might add that our budget only allows for the purchase of one detergent. I would appreciate any suggestions, ~~we~~ both want our togetherness to stay together.

Thank You
Dirty Clothes

Dear Dirty Clothes;

You have asked for suggestions so I'm sure the following solution will help.

Find two people who use BLUE CHEER and TIDE. Then swipe a little of both , mix them together, and continue to do this until you get caught. As long as you are discreet, your partner and laundry will never know.

Yours Truly
Madame Riot



April 10, 1979

Dear Madame Riot,

I am in a dither about a part of my life that is very important to me. Unfortunately people do not understand my needs or requirements. I have many different types of fantasies that I would like to fulfill however, my mate thinks I'm silly. My favourite is to have my lover in chains, clad in a slave outfit, and with her being wild and uncontrollable, I wish to tame her to the point of submission to her MASTER. I tease her with a whip forcing her sexual desires to soar to peaks never before reached, having an urgent need for satisfaction to the point of no return. And then, to create a climax for which pain and pleasure can not be told apart, and elapse into a coma of sheer ecstasy that lasts moment after moment.

I feel I am mature enough to handle my fantasies whatever they may be, but again, the agonizing repetitious answer of "NO" forbids me to act upon my urgent needs. I say urgent because if I cannot fulfill my wishes for this type of sexual play, I fear my body will reverse to a point of frigidity. I'm very frightened and confused. CAN YOU HELP ME?

Sincerely,

Blue Feather

Dear Blue Feather,

Fantasies are perfectly normal in their proper place and time, but in your case, there is only one suggestion I can give you. Since your mate thinks you are silly and does not want to participate, I suggest you try your fantasy out on yourself. Try beating yourself with a whip while your mate films you. That way, you make your dreams come true and at the same time, you get your mate interested in the art of sadism.

As for being afraid of going frigid, don't worry. I'm sure your imagination will prevent that from happening.

Sincerely,

Madame Riot

PHOTO PLUS

Photo Hints

After seeing a lot of photos taken in the Institution I thought some do's and dont's might help you along.

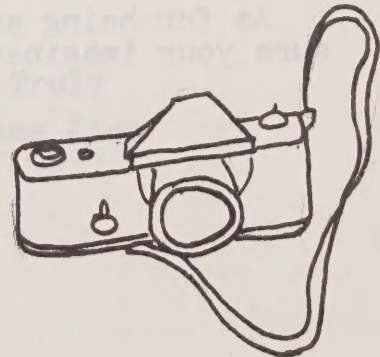
Remember to frame your picture! Many prints I've seen have the top of someones head in the corner and the rest of the picture blank. Keep the head and shoulders in the center or slightly to one side.

Hold that camera steady!! Many people blame their cameras for a fuzzy picture. Most instamatics and polaroids are in focus automatically after 5'. So, take a deep breath, keep your hands from shaking and snap away(or get someone with a steadier hand to do it for you)

Flash problems? With flash pictures, make sure your subject is within range of your camera. Usually up to 10 or 15 feet is alright. Use your flash when you're not certain there is enough daylight. This will save you from too dark a picture, and you might get some interesting results.

Read the dealers handbook on the specifications of your particular camera equipment. Every machine is slightly different than the next.

Liz Odin



WHEN BATTERED WOMEN STRIKE BACK MURDER OR SELF-DEFENSE

When Blenda Gay, a lineman with the Philadelphia Eagles football team, was killed by his wife, Roxanne, last year in their Camden, N.J., home, it was not in itself a particularly spectacular case. But when local feminists rallied to Roxanne's side, the case began attracting attention. Gay claimed that her husband had beaten her repeatedly through the course of their marriage, and that she had killed him in self-defense.

A few years ago, this story wouldn't have warranted national publicity. But two major areas of feminist activity that have gained a lot of media attention in recent years had dovetailed in Gay's case, making it something of a cause celebre: the right of a woman to defend herself against an assailant (dramatized by the national support shown for Joan Little and Inez Garcia, both of whom killed men they said had raped or attempted to rape them), and the growing concern over the plight of battered wives. Though Gay never went to trial - her case set a precedent for feminist and media attention to battered wives who fought back. The awareness increased in November 1977, when Francine Hughes, a Michigan housewife, was acquitted in the killing of her husband, James, hours after the last in a series of beatings that had gone on for thirteen years. Part of the reason for the publicity around this case was the gruesome manner of James's death: Francine had set his bedroom on fire as he slept.

Some of the press coverage was sympathetic; much was not. Edith Efron of TV Guide declared that all battered wives were "voluntary victims...far more terrified of independence than of brutality." And a New Times article by Peter S. Greenberg made the chipper observation that after the Hughes acquittal, "sure enough, the next weekend three women shot their husbands to death in the Chicago area." Husband killing, one might be tempted to think, is becoming downright trendy.

It's possible, of course, that some feminists, in their zeal to support women who have been brutalized by their husbands and then subjected to the further ordeal of a trial, have sounded indifferent or even cynical about the killings. But such attitudes are not typical of either the wives themselves or the women who support them. Says Betsy Warrior of Boston's Transition House, (a shelter for battered women), "Taking a human life is terrible; we can't minimize the horror of killing. But is it better to let yourself be killed, when those are the only choices you have? If life is sacred, isn't your own life as sacred as the life of someone who's attacking you?"

As to the suggestions that this is a new occurrence, one needs only to glance at the arts to recognize that the phenomenon of desperate women killing brutal husbands is probably as old as wife beating itself. Clytemnestra, after all, killed Agamemnon for the murder of their daughter Iphigenia. In 1917, Susan Glaspell published "A Jury of Her Peers," a poignant short story about two women, wives of the sheriff and deputy sheriff, who conceal from their husbands the evidence that would convict an emotionally brutalized wife who had killed her husband. More recently there has been factual corroboration. Kathryn Burkhart's Women In Prison, published in 1973, quotes from an interview with Martha Wheeler, then superintendent of the Ohio Reformatory for Women: "Most of our homicides come out of long-standing volatile situations--a person who meant something to the woman--and the situation blew up. It's a personal-interaction kind of thing--very often a drunk and abusive man, a husband, a boyfriend..." A 1975 study, The Contemporary Woman and Crime, published by the National Institute of Public Health and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, states that "women's involvement in (violent crime) typically rises out of the frustration, the subservience, and the dependence that have characterized the traditional female role. Case

histories of women who kill reveal one pattern that dominates all others. When women can no longer contain their frustration and their anger, they express themselves by doing away with the cause of their condition--most often a man."

Unfortunately, among all the studies on crime that have been done, almost none include actual statistics on murder committed by women as a result of repeated assaults by husbands or boyfriends.

However, Ann Arbor NOW did a study of crime in Washtenow County, Michigan, and determined that of thirteen homicides committed in the county in 1974, five of them were committed by women against husbands who were beating them--over 40 percent of the total. Martha Tack, who works with the government-funded Women's Jail Project in Massachusetts, did an informal study for this article and discovered that, out of twenty-two women charged with murder or manslaughter in the Boston area in 1976 and 1977, eleven said that they had been previously beaten at least once, and in many cases several times, by the husbands or boyfriends; they were accused of killing, and that this, they said, was the reason for their actions. (Of these, two agreed to plead guilty to manslaughter in exchange for having their charges reduced from first-degree murder, and the rest are still awaiting trial as of this writing.)

The most thorough study done to date was conducted in 1977 at the Women's Correctional Center in Chicago by Claudia McCormick, the prison's superintendent. McCormick learned that, of 132 women in her prison on murder or manslaughter convictions, 53--approximately 40 percent--had killed husbands or boyfriends who had repeatedly beaten them.

Obviously, then, this is neither a new nor a rare occurrence, and its relative prevalence raises some disturbing questions. Is this a kind of self-justified form of vigilante justice, encouraged by irresponsible feminists? Couldn't these women have found other, less drastic solutions to their problems--calling the police, having the men arrested, or simply leaving them? Do they really believe that they had no alternatives but to continue being beaten for the rest of their lives and perhaps finally be killed, or to commit murder themselves? And if so, is such a belief justified?

I sat through part of a murder trial in Boston, as a woman prosecutor attacked the personal morality of an unmarried woman who had killed the married boyfriend

she lived with: the man had repeatedly beaten her, and she had finally, during one beating, stabbed him to death. And I spoke with many other people-lawyers, defense committee workers, police officials, feminists who work with battered wives, and, most important, with battered women who have killed or tried to kill the men who were abusing them. Most emphatically rejected the claim of vigilante justice. The assistant district attorney and other law officials I spoke with, whom one might expect to be hostile to these women, were cautiously sympathetic. And to the women themselves, it was simply a question of survival.

Ann Rogers (not her real name) a soft-spoken middle-aged woman serving time in Massachusetts's Framingham Prison for manslaughter, described her husband's death to me: "He was threatening me with a rifle; he'd shot at me before. I tried to get it away from him. The gun went off; I thought the bullet went up in the ceiling. When he fell, I heard him make a sound. I went and lay down over him, I started crying, and I said, 'Oh, no, not you, not you!' When the police came I was sitting down in the kitchen-I don't remember talking to the police at all. He died on the way to the hospital.

Tina Evans (not her real name) thirty-five, who was convicted (and given a suspended sentence) for first-degree assault in Iowa for stabbing her husband, told me: "He was beating me-he'd beaten me many times before. When I picked up that knife, he didn't think I'd use it. I didn't think I'd use it. I didn't think I'd have to. But I had the knife in my hand and he grabbed me-and threw me against the wall and came at me again. What I did was out of pure animal instinct, pure self-preservation." Even now, she can't be identified in this article, because she fears that her ex-husband will seek her out and beat her if he knows that she has told her story to a magazine.

Gloria Timmons, who was released last summer from a Seattle prison after serving five and a half years on a manslaughter conviction, says that her husband, whom she had left after two and a half years of constant beatings, found her at a bar and began to attack her with a screwdriver. She shot him with a gun she'd recently bought in order to defend herself against him. "I was young-I'd just turned nineteen, I was real scared, and I was tired. You know, I just shot one time. When I went to jail, they asked had I meant to do it. I said, well, I meant to shoot him, shoot him to let him know I wasn't going to let him be harming my person anymore, to let him know that this time I was serious, I wasn't taking any more. But I didn't mean for that one bullet to go in the wrong place and kill him."

Sharon Crigler, twenty-one, was convicted in Washington of first-degree manslaughter in the death of her boyfriend, Keith Rolland, and is currently on bail awaiting the outcome of her appeal. This is how she tells her story: On the day of his death, Rolland had called and threatened to come to her apartment and beat her. Knowing he had outstanding traffic violations, she called the police, told them what he had said, and suggested that they arrest him for the traffic violations in order to prevent him from harming her. They agreed and arrested him outside her home. When he got out of jail a few hours later, he went directly to her apartment and tried to get in with a set of master keys given him by the building manager against Crigler's specific request that he not be admitted to the building. He had beaten her many times during the three months they had lived together, and she was convinced that he was going to kill her for having had him arrested. The friend who had paid Rolland's bail was with him and corroborated Crigler's testimony during her trial, as did two other witnesses. Hearing the sounds at the door, Crigler shouted out, demanding to know who was there. When there was no answer, she knew it was Rolland. The fumbling at the keyhole continued, and she shouted out again, telling him to go away, that she had a gun and would use it. When he didn't leave after repeated warnings, she shot through the door, fatally wounding him. She scoffs at the idea that she was trying to get revenge. "I shot through a closed door," she says. "If I'd wanted to kill him I'd have waited till he came in so I could see him."

On the stand in her first-degree murder trial in Boston last March, Lorilyn Allan (later acquitted) described how her boyfriend had come up from behind her and grabbed her after she ran from their bedroom into the kitchen, at the beginning of an assault, and grabbed a knife. She testified that she swung the knife around her body; it went between his ribs and punctured an artery.

Many people who are sympathetic to this kind of situation are less so when they feel that the killing has been premeditated or that the woman had an opportunity to escape without killing her attacker. Edward R. Gargiulo, an assistant district attorney in Boston's Middlesex County, says, "It's one thing to hit him over the head with a lamp, say, that you've just grabbed-- it's another thing to shoot him, as one woman here did a few years ago, when there's a door you can run out of. A Francine Hughes would have had a hard time in this jurisdiction."

In many cases, immediate escape was possible, but the woman felt that her life was endangered and that she had to attack before her husband could get to her again. Francine Hughes testified that she was convinced that her husband would kill her (as he had earlier that night told a policeman he would do), and that there was no other way to prevent him from doing so. Mary McGuire, still in a halfway house in Oregon (where she is trying to get paroled), was convicted of solicitation for attempting to hire a man to kill her husband, after the man had come to her home offering his services. McGuire told me that she had at first argued with the man, wanting her husband "punished," not killed. She added that the man had argued with her, and that she had finally reluctantly decided to have her husband killed. When I asked her to explain why she wanted her husband punished, she replied, "It was the only way I could get away from the fear, to save my children and myself." The punishment was a means to end the harassment. She was the only woman I spoke with who even mentioned the concept of punishment. (She was also the one with the most horrifying story. Not only, she says, did her husband constantly beat her and their children; he also forced her to watch as he dug her grave and, at another point, decapitated their pet horse and killed their pet cat to show them what he would do to Mary and the children if they didn't obey him.)

How do these women feel about the men they have killed? Most of them seem to have been shattered by their husbands' deaths and by the fact that they have killed them--and most speak with compassion, even affection, of the men who beat them. Anne Rogers spoke warmly of her early years with her husband, whose battering she sees as the influence of a woman he had become involved with. "I had a good husband before he got messed up with this woman. He was a hardworking man. He bought me a new car and an old one for himself. He said, 'You're too pretty to drive a raggedy car.' But then he got to where he didn't care about me, or himself, or the kids". That was when the beatings began. Claudia McCormick notes that "In spite of all the beatings, abusive language, embarrassment, etc., all of the women stated that they loved their men." "It is a measure of their desperation, perhaps, that these women killed men they deeply cared for. Realistically or not, in their own eyes they were defending themselves in the only way possible against savage attacks and possible murder.

How accurate is their perception? In mid-twentieth-century America, one might assume that these women were ignorant at best, paranoid at worst. Women are no longer men's chattel, divorce is easily accessible, and police and social agencies have sophisticated mechanisms for protecting citizens against assault.

Yet a look at these women's lives--and the lives of other battered women--paints a chilling picture of a McCormick's survey in the Chicago jail; all the women who had killed battering mates claim to have called the police at least five or six times,and "twenty-seven claimed that after they continuously called the police and had the men arrested, the beatings became more severe after each arrest." In a 1976 conference on women and crime held in Washington, D.C., Sergeant Darrel Stephens of the Kansas City Police Department said, "In the case of a woman who wants to do something about the problem (being beaten), she actually has no place to go if her husband doesn't want to go along with it."

The women I spoke with all confirmed this assessment. Ann says, "One time he cut me up across the stomach. I called the police; I showed them my stomach and said, 'That's what this man's done to me.' You know what they said? They had no way to prove that he'd done it. I said, 'Do you think I'm a fool, I'd cut my own self across the stomach?' They said, 'Well, we can't mess in a family affair.'"

Gloria Timmons says that she called the police several times after her husband had left the house. "They'd say, 'Well, he isn't here, we can't do anything.' They'd say, 'This is a domestic fight and we can't interfere. If he were here beating you we could stop him.' I said, 'Hell, how am I going to get to you while he's beating me.' They just ignored it. Every time this man jumped on me I called the police. One policeman told me, 'Well, when he comes to the door, shoot him and then call us.'" On the day when Francine Hughes finally killed her husband, her daughter had earlier called the police because James was beating Francine. When they arrived, James threatened to kill his wife as soon as they left. When one of the policemen testified to this during Francine's trial, the defense asked why he hadn't arrested James at that point. "I thought it was an idle threat," replied the officer. Thomas Cannon, chief staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Michigan, has had five clients who killed abusive woman who'd completely exhausted every legal recourse open to her--they'd tried the police, the family courts, the D.A.'s office, everything," he says.

Law-enforcement officials have conflicting opinions about this assessment of police attitudes. Says Edward Gargiulo, "Sure, it happens that way sometimes--as a result of a police officer's being faced with that set of circumstances over a long period of time--being called by the woman and then having her refuse to make a complaint. Of the umpteen domestic assault-and-batteries he's been involved in, maybe one has reached fruition. He gets to the point where he has to size up the situation in the beginning." Benjamin Wall, clerk at Boston's Dorchester District Court, is even more emphatic. "Police do everything they can," he says. "I think that policemen today bend over backwards to help women. They don't want to see a woman abused." But Detroit's Chief of Police James Bannon has said that "the battered female generates little interest or enthusiasm amongst police of ... violence, and her relationship to the perpetrator is known...she is advised, 'Work it out,' 'Don't bother us with your problem,' 'Get a lawyer,' 'Get medical proof of injury.'"

Even when the police are genuinely sympathetic, their hands are tied. They cannot arrest a battering husband unless they have witnessed the battering or unless the wife has filed charges. Most women are afraid to file charges, knowing that their husbands will be out of jail in a few days and will probably be angrier than before and punish them with further beatings, whether or not they have left their homes.

One of the problems is that many men--including some policemen--seem to have few moral qualms about wife beating. It must be remembered that less than a century ago, American law, based on English common law, specified that a man was permitted to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. A recent Harris poll showed that 20 percent of American men in the general population (and 25 percent of college-educated American men) believe in a man's right to beat his wife. Another informal study was conducted for this article by Ronald E. Lawrence, an inmate at the U.S. Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois, who is also a group therapist and has worked with character-disordered personalities in the prison. He first chose nine other inmates who, between them, had served time in eleven prisons, so that their impressions would reflect tendencies in several prisons, rather than in only one or two, which might be atypical. Without suggesting a figure, he asked each what percentage of convicted killers they thought were in prison for killing wives or girlfriends they had previously beaten. He also asked them how such men compared with other inmates in the prison population.

(This gives a unique perspective, since even prison officials rarely have the knowledge of the inmate subculture that inmates themselves have.) According to Lawrence, the inmates felt that "there was usually no problem picking these men out of a prison population....They were almost always first offenders, not 'con-wise,' and usually failed to 'fit in' to the prison scene"--in short, wife beaters (at least those who end up killing their wives) tend to be men who do not see themselves and are not seen by other inmates as criminals. This view corresponded to Lawrence's own observations.

If she can't get help from the police, why doesn't the battered wife simply leave her husband? There are usually economic problems, and there is enormous psychological pressure. Women are still taught that marriage is sacred and that divorce is a barometer of a woman's failure as a woman. Says Betsy Warrior of Transition House (herself a battered wife for seven years), "We have many women who go back several times before they finally leave for good. The man will cry, beg, threaten, convince everybody that he's changed. These women have been trained to be compassionate--when they see him cry it gets to them. They remember his good qualities, his vulnerabilities--and they care about him." "Violent men," says Chief Bannon, "have succeeded in the seemingly impossible task of convincing the victim that it is somehow her fault that he 'loses control and beats her.'" Again, the women I interviewed confirmed this. Tina Evans had lived with her husband before they married, and when he began beating her she left him. He soon persuaded her, however, that they could work things out. "He'd had me convinced that he'd hit me because of the things I'd do; if I wouldn't do these things it wouldn't anger him and he wouldn't have to hit me. I kept trying to improve myself so that I wouldn't anger him." After they were married he began beating her again, and she kept trying to "improve" herself. "I was reading Total Woman and Fascinating Womanhood," she says. "You keep staying there trying to make it work; you keep saying, 'If I do this one, don't do this it'll make it all right.' Until one day you snap, like I did." Lorllyn Allan, testifying at her trial in Boston, said, crying, "I loved him and he needed me, and he gave me good things--I thought they'd be stronger than the bad."

Often the women who want to leave have no place to go. "Usually, men who are abusive to their wives are extremely jealous and do everything they can to break her ties with her family, her friends, anyone who can offer her any kind of support," says Lisa Leghorn of Transition House. "By the time it gets to homicidal proportions she has no support networks left." James Hughes not only

refused to let his wife have friends; he would frequently go to a bar, phone her, and if the line was busy come home and beat her for talking with someone else. He did not, however, prevent her from taking classes at night school, though he would sometimes follow her in his car to make sure she wasn't socializing with her classmates. The beating on the night of his death was precipitated by her having driven a classmate home from school.

And frequently, women do leave, only to return. Hughes had divorced her husband and was living apart from him for a time. Then he came to see her at her new home and they quarreled. He drove off and wrecked the car, nearly killing himself in the process. His parents convinced Francine that it was her fault he'd had the accident and that she owed it to him to return and take care of him. She did.

Anne, too, left her husband. "I left him a few times, took all my clothes and everything. He came after me and brought me back. Once I wired my father down South for the money and I went down South to my family. I got there Sunday, and on Monday he was there, and he begged and begged me to come back." Convinced that he really loved her and would stop beating her, she returned.

When persuasion fails, the deserted husband often resorts to threats--against the woman herself, their children, or her family and friends. McCormick reports that "several of the women had left and were found sooner or later by the mate...they decided to return with the children, as most of the loved ones would threaten the people with whom they were living."

And the men often continue to beat the women after they leave. All four of Thomas Cannon's clients were in the process of divorce, and still being beaten, when they killed their husbands. Chief Cannon cites the case of a woman who had been divorced for twenty-five years. "In that period, he at various times sought her out and beat her, even though she moved several times." Francine Hughes twice tried to leave her ex-husband after she'd moved back with him. Once he followed her in his car and tried to run her down; the second time he found her at her parent's home, and afraid he'd attack her family, she says, she returned to him. Of the five women I spoke with, three had no longer been living with their mates at the time of the incidents. "There were different times I tried to leave him," says Mary McGuire. "I'd gotten away; the kids and I went to a place some

three or four hundred miles away to stay with some friends. He came down and found me--he'd had the license plates on the car traced--and he brought us back at gunpoint, holding the gun at my child's head, playing Russian roulette, with one bullet in the gun and pulling the trigger. You obey a man when he's holding a gun at your child's head. This happened three or four times, every time I'd leave. Then he'd kill an animal and say, 'This is what's going to happen to you or the kids if you don't stay where you belong.'" Timmons had left her husband after one of the beatings had landed her in the hospital. When he found out she'd told the doctors he'd beaten her, he came to the hospital and began to beat her there. A doctor and security guard pulled him off and helped her to the police station, where she pressed charges against him. Afterward, she moved into her own apartment and avoided places where she was likely to run into him. He found her anyway, and came at her with a screwdriver. That was when she shot him.

In fact, the lives of battered women are often at stake, and it is possible that if some of these women had not killed their husbands, their husbands might have eventually killed them. Chief Bannon has remarked on a number of occasions that wife abuse often ends in the murder of one or the other partner. Although statistics on battering men who kill their wives are as rare as statistics on battering men killed by their wives, there is reason to suppose that the former case is actually more common than the latter. In our telephone conversation, Chief Bannon told me that between forty and fifty men are arrested each year in Detroit for killing their wives, and that in all the cases the men have previously beaten the women they eventually killed. In 1977, a study funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in the Citizens' Complaint Center in Washington, D.C., brought out the startling information that there were eleven cases of battered wives being murdered by their husbands after lawyers at the Center refused to issue warrants for the husbands' arrests. Sections of the report were quoted in the Washington Star. An article by Michelle Kamisher in the Real Paper in 1976 cites the case of Jacqueline Hughes, who called the police several times in an attempt to have her battering husband arrested, was ignored, and was killed by him a week after her last call to the police. Janice Miller and other Roxanne Gay supporters staged a protest demonstration last August when a battering husband who had stabbed his estranged wife to death was given \$75,000 bail, contrasted with the \$100,000 bail set for Gay. And the prison inmates surveyed by Ronald Lawrence all

estimated, within 5 percent, that 40 percent of all men in prison for murder or manslaughter were there because they had murdered their wives or girl friends after a long period of escalating violent behavior toward the women. Considering that 90 percent of all violent crimes in the country are committed by men, this suggests that more husbands kill their wives than vice versa. And it also indicates that, whoever ends up being killed, the killing is precipitated by the man's repeated abuse of his wife.

What about the fear, expressed by law officials, laymen, and some journalists, that the acquittal of women like Francine Hughes, and public sympathy for wives, will result in, as one policeman has been quoted as predicting, "open season on husbands"? According to Katherine Triantafillou, a lawyer who works with Transition House, it's a groundless fear. "These killings are almost never premeditated--it's not something they want to do." The likelihood that women who haven't been beaten will successfully use the rationale of self-defense to dispose of nonbattering but unwanted husbands is equally remote, according to Triantafillou. "You'd have to substantiate beatings--you'd need witnesses, some kind of proof. You can't just go and say, 'Hey, I've been beaten,' with no evidence." Again, the law-enforcement officers I spoke with agreed this assessment.

Indeed, some feminists feel that existing laws around self-defense are not adequate to deal with the specialized circumstance of the battered wife who kills her husband. "The assumption of self-defense," says a member of Francine Hughes's defense committee who has worked for several years with battered wives, "is that if the person could have called the police or gotten to a safe place, it would have been all right. But in the case of a battered woman, it isn't true. No one's going to help her. The laws governing self-defense say the person must be in 'imminent danger.' But battered women are in imminent danger all the time." Others disagree. "I don't view this situation any differently than I view any killing." Says Edward Gargiulo. "The factors that motivate the actor have to be assessed the same way they do in any other situation. If a woman has endured beatings over a time, that should be considered. For that matter, if a husband kills his wife, maybe he's been nagged for fifteen years. Different things affect people's minds, and they all bear on the issue of premeditation or mitigation." Benjamin Wall, Dorchester district clerk, says, "Trials are made for the benefit of both parties--you'd need some kind of trial, or tribunal, to determine the truth of the woman's story. How serious was the battery? Just

because she gets mad, because he hits her in the mouth once in a while doesn't mean she has the right to shoot him. But where there's been real battery, and he's been beating her awhile, that can be justifiable homicide. Even if he's asleep at the time--that may be the only chance she has. If he's coming at you with a gun, you don't have time to stop him then. There are extenuating circumstances--I don't feel that everyone who commits a crime is a criminal."

Has the publicity around battered women who kill their husbands notably affected their legal standing? It's too early to tell anything conclusively, of course, but the outcome of recent cases suggests that there has been no sudden urge on the part of judges and juries to free the women (see accompanying box). As to public opinion in general, it is also too early to gauge that accurately.

The taking of a human life to protect one's own is a terrible and tragic resolution to a terrible and tragic situation. But, as such law officials as James Bannon and Claudia McCormick readily admit, to imprison a woman who as a desperate, last resort has committed an act that will scar her for the rest of her life seems both cruel and futile. Bannon and McCormick both feel that the solution lies in the establishment of more shelters for battered women across the country--an assessment echoed by almost everyone I spoke^{to} told me that had there been shelters available to them at the time, they would have gone to them. And, since the shelters' addresses are kept strictly secret, the three who had left their husbands would probably not have been found by them.

If we are horrified, as we must be, by the killing of these men, we must be at least equally horrified by the desperation that led to it. And we must take upon ourselves the responsibility for providing a less hideous solution for the problem of the battered wife. As Claudia McCormick says at the end of her survey, "I question how one rehabilitates (people who are) not criminal but who, if services were available, could be living productive lives, without guilt and remorse for taking a human life to save their own."

SOME RECENT CASES
AND THEIR OUTCOMES

May 1977: Miriam Grieg, Montana-acquitted

October 1977: Violet Mae Allen, Michigan-
convicted of first-degree murder

October 1977: Shirley Garcia, Indiana con-
victed on conspiracy to kill

November 1977: Evelyn Ware, California-ac-
quitted

November 1977: Claudia Thacker, Washington
state-convicted of second-degree murder

November 1977: Sharon McNearney, Michigan
acquitted

December 1977: Bernestine Taylor, Illinois
acquitted

December 1977: Hazel Kontos, Alabama-convicted,
sentenced to life in prison

December 1977: Carolyn McKendrick, Philadelphia
convicted of first-degree murder

La Cour est Ouverte.

Imaginez-vous donc: Ceci est très sérieux, ou du moins en apparence?

Donc voici l'avocat-do Sigfried dans la cause de Cézigue: le monsieur s'est évadé de son domicile, la prison chose et trouvé en possession de drolle ou stupefiant; mais avant de faire son saut en hauteur Cézigue avait aussi emprunter le bien d'autrui sans le remettre' et ceci en disant des choses pas très gentilles à la personne détroussée.

L'avocat-do essaye de mettre tout son savoir-faire dans ce bouilli de légumes comme il s'en suit:

Mr. mon honneur, votre éminence, et deshonneur, Cézigue ayant eu une enfance malheureuse ayant frayer avec des bums toute sa vie, ne connaît rien de mieux que voler pour payer sa drolle et s'il s'est poussé de son domicile régulier c'est qu'il n'avait pas les traitements qu'il avait besoin contre sa maudite drolle,

Le juge Nazaire Pourrissant: Ce n'est pas parce que monsieur est drolle qu'il faut lui donner le bon dieu sans confession Hein?

Ben pire que ça ce gentil monde-la irait jusqu'à meurt-rir des personnes vous savez pas?

Sigfried: Comment ça le chose de la couronne est pas encore arrivée?

Juge Nazaire: D'ici quinze minutes il devrait être dans l'arène.

Sigfried: J'espère que je ne le dérange pas trop s'il est en combinaison?

Juge Nazaire: Un peu de sérieux, s.v.p. venez-en au combinaison
heû" pardon aux conclusions:

Sigfried: Hem: ouais vous savez les drolle sont pas normal, je
veut pas dire qu'ils sont fous, mais ils sont pas toute la
quand ils font quelque chose, si ils volent une auto c'est
surement pour la vendre dans l'espuère d'avoir de la drolle
après, mais si quelqu'un de normal vole, ça c'est pour le
plaisir: donc c'est de la totologie.

Juge Nazaire: Non maître Sigfried, de l'autologie bon.

Sigfried: Bon en té cas c'est pour vous dire que faut pas
être trop méchant envers ces fous-la, c'est pas parcequ'ils
quittent la prison sans prévenir le gardien ou Qu'ils cassent
une couple de vitres qu'ils sont dangeureux hein?

Juge Nazaire: Donc, Mr. Cézigue plaidez-vous coupable ou non
coupe-able?

Cezigue: Coupe-able

Juge Nazaire: Bon dix ans pour votre petite absence temporaire
cinq ans pour avoir emprunter le bien d'autrui et vingt ans
pour la drolle, comme il disait si bien vôtres avocat faut pas
être trop sévère envers ces fous-la hein?

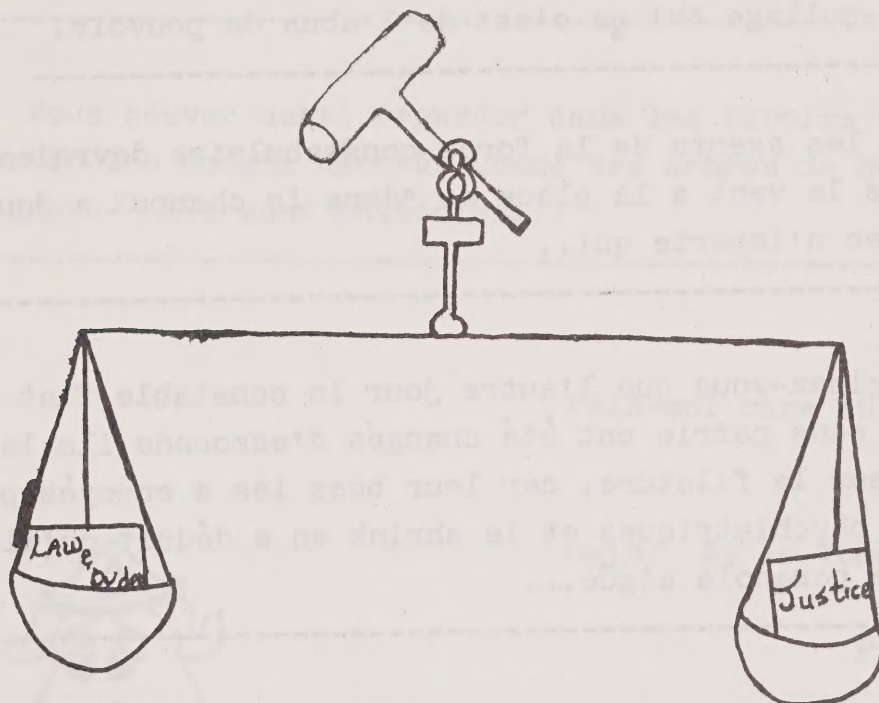
Mais faut penser aussi qu'eux autres pour de la drolle ils ferait
n'importe quoi.

Ceci clos le dossier Cézigue:

Ah" oui c'est très captivant de voir toute ces causes-la qui
sont prises avec le plus grand sérieux du monde

Eh" bien il ne reste plus qu'a attendre que le ciel nous tombe
sur la tête avec des énergumenes de ce genre, et tout ça dans le
plus beau langage universitaire.

Peut-être que le juge Nazaire devait en avoir ras-le bol
de ses oeufs collés au fond ou peut-être que le bordel du
coin avait augmenté ses prix, car je pense qu'ils doivent
surveiller leur budget, faut les comprendre ils sont si peu
instruit les p^ouvres''''''



LES PERPITIES DE LA GENTE CANINE AU QUEBEC

Question No. 1: Pourquoi les chiens ont-ils des puces et les puces pas de chiens?? Hein??

C'est l'agent, l'agent chose matricule 69 96969 (le PÔVRE) qui met en état d'arrestation Mlle chinetoque qui prenait un verre seule dans le bar du centre-ville sous prétexte qu'elle faisait du ra-collage Ah! ça c'est de l'abus de pouvoir!

Hé! bien les agents de la force constabulaire devraient être plus dans le vent à la place de "dans le champs" à jouer au docteur avec n'importe qui..

Bien imaginez-vous que l'autre jour le constable flat foot et le sergent sans patrie ont été changés d'escouade ils les ont assignés sur la filature, car leur boss les a envoyés passer des tests psychiatriques et le shrink en a déduit qu'ils souffraient de paranoïa aiguë...

A part ça chez nous va bien! Pour en dire que ces messieurs sont des constipés chroniques et devraient consulter leur vétérinaire plus souvent car la maladie devient plus forte avec les années, et qu'ils cherchent des tiques ou il en a pas et même si le test est négatif (voir L'agent Polaroid) ils en trouvent quand même!

C'est pour cette raison qu'au bout de 15 ans de service l'administration leur donne un livre de comics et une chaise roulante et aussi un ensemble de cinquante-trois morceaux, un jeu de cartes et une brosse à dents.....

Donc ces petits martyres cannés Bleu et Blanc ont tout essayer.

Du ciseau de jambes aux coups de marteau sur la tete, car leurs superieurs fournissent l'equipement. Ah! aussi vous pouvez lire l'annuaire du téléphone en trois minutes, mais pour moi il y a trop de noms d'auteurs, la-dedans.

Vous pouvez aussi regarder dans les tiroirs de bureaux et ressortir les doigts décorés comme des arbres de Noel, mais c'est pas grave-- ils sont Daltoniens!!

Fais-moi rire en trois volumes

Tome 1

Hein! Et le Tome 2 prochainement

Francine Loiseau

1171



THE PEN. SYSTEM.....

For the last couple of years I really wondered about jails. Basically, government is always complaining about its lack of funds for social services and what is related to it. But a lump sum of money is provided to construct places where people who are a-social will be confined.

These people are kept inactive and do not do anything "constructive" for society. Granted they might have done something wrong but they are "frozen still" because of it.

People are kept inside for one to three years and many more without parole. When it is time for them to walk out of these institutions where they were kept out of any kind of responsibilities we expect them to be able to act according to society's rules... and prisoners have been denied the right to evaluate in this kind of setting. "Normal"? I doubt it very much. Should we expect someone who did not skate for ten years to go out one day and play a hockey game? This is nonsense, you'll tell me and I do agree with you.

Relate this to prisoners and you will see how the system is full of loop-holes (for not saying non-sense). What I see beneficial for all of us, (tax payers as well as prisoners), would be to have a diversion program. A program whereby the one who committed a crime would have to render it back to society by doing something beneficial for society and for his/her own education. No one then would be put away for years and asked to come back playing a full "hockey game". Rehabilitation programs would not be as necessary as we know them now and there would be less trauma and recidivism!

Jean - Guy St. Yves
Toronto

INSIDE OAKALLA

Anonymous

As we hear it:

This article was done with the help of an inmate who recently got here from Oakalla not too long ago. Reference will be made refering to the Commission's Recommendations that were in our last **issue of Tightwire.**

Recommendations:

- #7 probationary and auxiliary staff not be members of the union.

As we hear it:

there are auxiliary staff that are members of the union.

- #8 a cottage be refurnished for use as a lounge for staff.

As we hear it:

- #9 the staff use the dining room as a lounge.
uniforms be worn by all institutional staff.

As we hear it:

the only part of a uniform that the staff wears is a navy blue jacket and they usually hang it on the back of a door when they get to work.

- #10 male staff be allowed to work in an area where human decency and privacy are not affected.

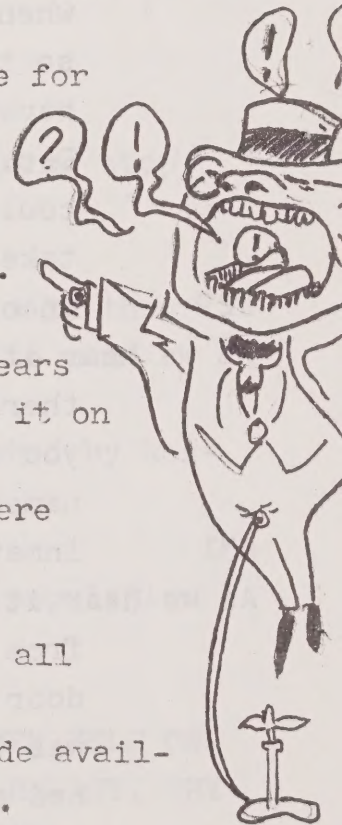
As we hear it:

the male staff are allowed to wonder around all parts of the institution.

- #11 a pool of part time staff be trained and made available to cover illness and other emergencies.

As we hear it:

the only staff that covers illness and other emergencies are the staff that need overtime.



#12 revised and regulations be publicized to staff and inmates.

As we hear it:

the only rules at Oakalla is that each individual staff have their rules and these differ with their moods.

#26 a cottage be refurnished for use as a library and funds be made immediately for books and supplies.

As we hear it:

the only library that Oakalla had is now P.C. and what few books they did have are still with P.C. inmates, no one can get near the P.C. unit.

#27 a cottage be refurnished for use as a school room, and that the school budget be substantially increased.

As we hear it:

when I was last there, the cottages were being closed so they could be torn down. And I'm sure that they haven't given the school any kind of budget, as of Dec. they were holding school in the gym. And they couldn't be bothered to turn on the heat, let alone take time to increase the budget.

#29 an orientation programme be established at OWCC.

As we hear it:

there is no orientation program. They do, call you in the office and get you next of kin, lawyers names etc., and call this orientation.

#31 inmates spend at least one hour outside everyday.

As we hear it:

from last Sept. to Dec. I can not remember the door being opened up once. Their reason for that was lack of staff, although I was told that they had about 70 staff on the pay roll.

#42 that Lynda Williams Community Correctional Centre be closed.

As we hear it:

Lynda Williams was still open as of last Dec. the panabode programme at OWCC were opened.

#43 the panabode is still closed and from what I gather will not be opened in the near future.

#45 family visits continue on a regular basis.

As we hear it:

there was only one family visit in the eight months I was there.

#48 telephone calls to lawyers be private and other conversations monitored if there is a security risk or disruption of good order and/or management is suspected.

As we hear it:

all phone calls monitored at all times.

#49 all censorship of mail ingoing and outgoing stop forthwith.

As we hear it:

the line staff are allowed to read any mail they feel may contain something detrimental to management and they read everything.

#50 inmates with mental problems be segregated by hospitalization.

As we hear it:

the people considered disturbed are in population with everyone else.

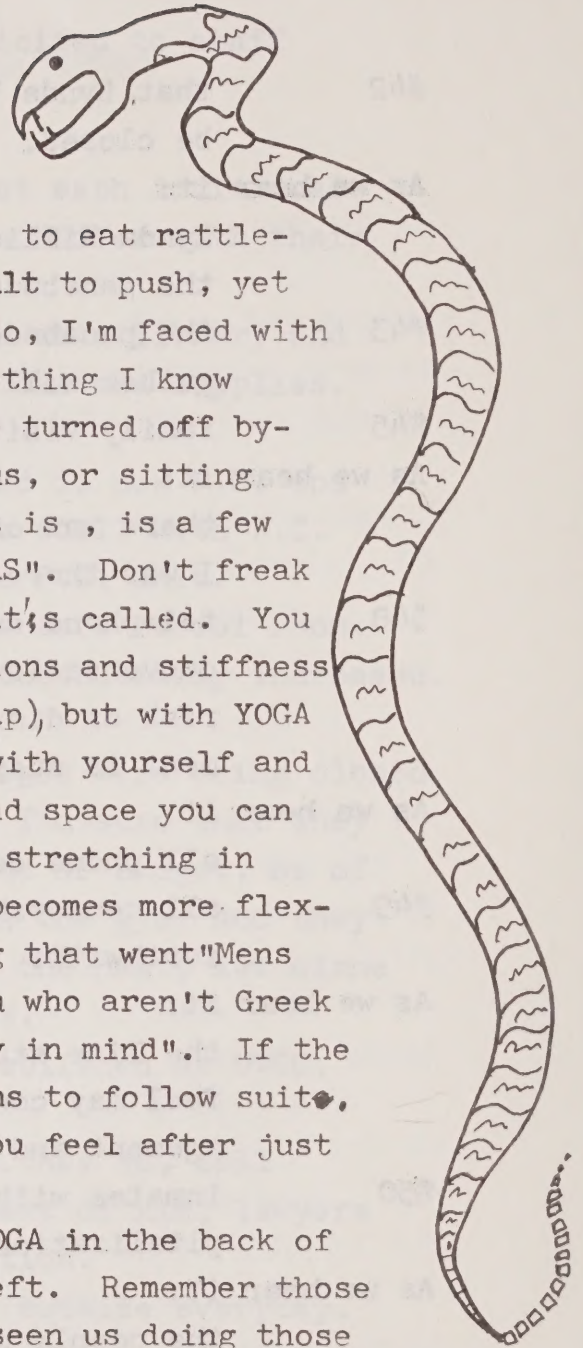
JUST WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDATIONS, DO THEY HELP OR HINDER US..... WHY DOES IT TAKE PEOPLE SO LONG TO RE-ACT. WHY ARE THEY MADE IF SO MANY OF THEM ARE NOT CARRIED OUT.

RATTLE STEAK OR YOGA ANYONE??

Have you ever tried to get someone to eat rattle-snake steak? Yoga seems to be as difficult to push, yet both are in their different ways good. So, I'm faced with the problem of How to turn you on to something I know will make you feel good, yet you might be turned off by the word, "YOGA". It's not only the Gurus, or sitting around in a circle chanting "OM", all it is, is a few simple stretching exercises called "ASANAS". Don't freak out at the Foreign word, it's just what it's called. You might be aware of some unnoticeable tensions and stiffness built up in your body, (prisons don't help), but with YOGA you'll become relaxed and more at peace with yourself and others. As a result YOGA is a private head space you can get into, in any corner you can find. By stretching in different postures or ASANAS, your body becomes more flexible and limber. The Greeks had a saying that went "Mens sanus in corpore sana", for those of you who aren't Greek Scholars that's "healthy in body, healthy in mind". If the body is relaxed and supple, the mind seems to follow suit. You might be surprised at the calmness you feel after just a little practice.

Johanne Melnick has been giving YOGA in the back of the Gym since October, just before Ian left. Remember those sunny summer months when you might have seen us doing those 'Sun Salutations' with him? It's unfortunate that he's gone, we'll miss him, but his friend Johanne is still here. So, come on down and join us: Thursday evenings 8 o'clock on. You might be glad you gave it a try!

Liz Odin



WHAT'S GOING ON???????

When the Prison for Women invited the press in to visit our pen we weren't ready for the kind of sensationalist press coverage that we received. The inmate committee is demoncratically elected by the inmate population to represent them. It appeared the press preferred in some instances to report on casual isolated comments thrown in by the usual loud mouthed individuals who thrive on making astounding statements to gain attention. An example of one such instance by an inmate "Do you know how many of the women hate men? & I mean hate them". We are not all men haters and am upset that such generlizations be made fallaciously from the mouths of the few, indeed one or two. The screening of fact usually is done at the administration level which is the reason the inmate committee was allowed direct contact with the press.

(1) to speak for the population; (2) to the best of their ability describe the Prison for Women situation as they saw it, as accurately and honestly as possible.

We think your report on the Prison for Women was disgusting. You have distored our comments on what the inmates had to say. You've made this place to sound like a den of iniquity with all this alleged drugs, booze and sex. The inmate population must be holding out on me as I've not been getting any of it. We've let you into the institution in good faith to tell you why we wanted this institution left open for women. We see that we were wrong and all you cared about was juicy scandal so you could sell your newspapers. Well your certainly succeeded in causing turmoil and our hopes also for keeping this prison open for women.

A women fifty years of age serving a life sentence and having a family of five children is really upset. She says "I am here with a lot of young girls but I DO NOT have (sex) with anyone at all, let alone young girls. I am on day parole and certainly do not bring drugs into this institution. I have never taken anything in my life I don't even smoke up. I'm suffering but my family is suffering much more from these articles. My family and friends know I am in here, what is this going to do to my children after the write up in the paper.

Another inmate comments, "it has upset my family outside to the extent where I had to place a phone call to the director of the school my son attends because it has affected and upset my son very much. This article itself was very unfair".

"I don't think its fair, and it has upset my parents and I'm concerned because there are a lot of false statements and my mother is very sick and now I am concerned for her health and welfare."

"The article was very disgusting and will really upset my family. I don't think it was called for and was exaggerated to great extent."

"You made us seem like sex fiends and prostitutes of one another. You say that we have too much freedom, and basically freeloaders. In short, you put us down as the scum of the earth we are out to get all we can to have "easy time". If you want to write an article on us, please be accurate and fair with the information you are given."

"It's a bunch of lies and by these comments you look like a bunch of animals and we are not."

"They should be dealing eith the problem, not the incidents. You don't lock people away and expect them to do without sex. Alot of relationships in here are just super strong friendships - the sex is just incodental. There isn't someone waiting at the front door to turn someone into a Lesbian."

We've managed to receive some articles from Kingston area however haven't really been able to see what other newspapers have had to say. The Citizen "Feb. 27th" from Ottawa was reasonable article but we wonder how many other distortions have occured without our knowledge. That women would pose for a photographer embracing each other to gain publicity is beyond us. I think the other observations made by the other inmates, goes on to describe their outrage and disappointment in the press reporters and the way it was allowed by the editors to be released. It's sad, when you relize how fact and fiction are reported as fact today and unless you are there to witness the event, know if it was truly reported later.

We would like to add to the press who reported the distorted articles we're just wondering how you've been sleeping lately at nights or doesn't it bother your conscience at all????????????????????

Inmates
Prison for Women....

Judith Knott
Chairman, Inmate Committee
Prison for Women

March 2, 1979

To whom it may concern:

I am very disappointed on the article in the Globe & Mail (Toronto). You are defeating the very purpose we have been working hard on: NOT CLOSING THE PRISON FOR WOMEN.

The old saying goes, "you'll always find a few bad apples in every bushel," well, it's looks like you prefer the bad apples rather than the good ones.

Sexual relationships, yes there are, but it is not forced on you, it is your own concern. The comment about the older cons taking care of the new or young ones, this not for sexual purposes. It is because we know how frightened they are when they come here. After all, at one time the old timers were newcomers and from hearing and reading things such as your articles there is fear.

Contraband, I don't care what institution you do your time at you'll find it one way or another. There will be contraband such as drugs and booze but what is said about girls coming in here straight and going out drug users - B.S. - that again is up to the individual, it is not forced on you.

It was quoted that we should have male guards in here. The matrons that work in here are trained for their jobs and they are not forced to work here, that too, is up to the individual, RIGHT!!!

I want to add that your column has upset our families as well as us. You see, they know us as you know your families and to our families, there is no difference, we still belong and are loved by them.

I hope in the near future that you rectify the trash you wrote about us and try to remember, we are the ones who have to start all over again. Some of us will go straight and some won't but no matter, we're still human beings and would like to be treated as one.

Judie Knott
Chairwoman, Inmate Committee
Prison for Women.

Carol's Crossword

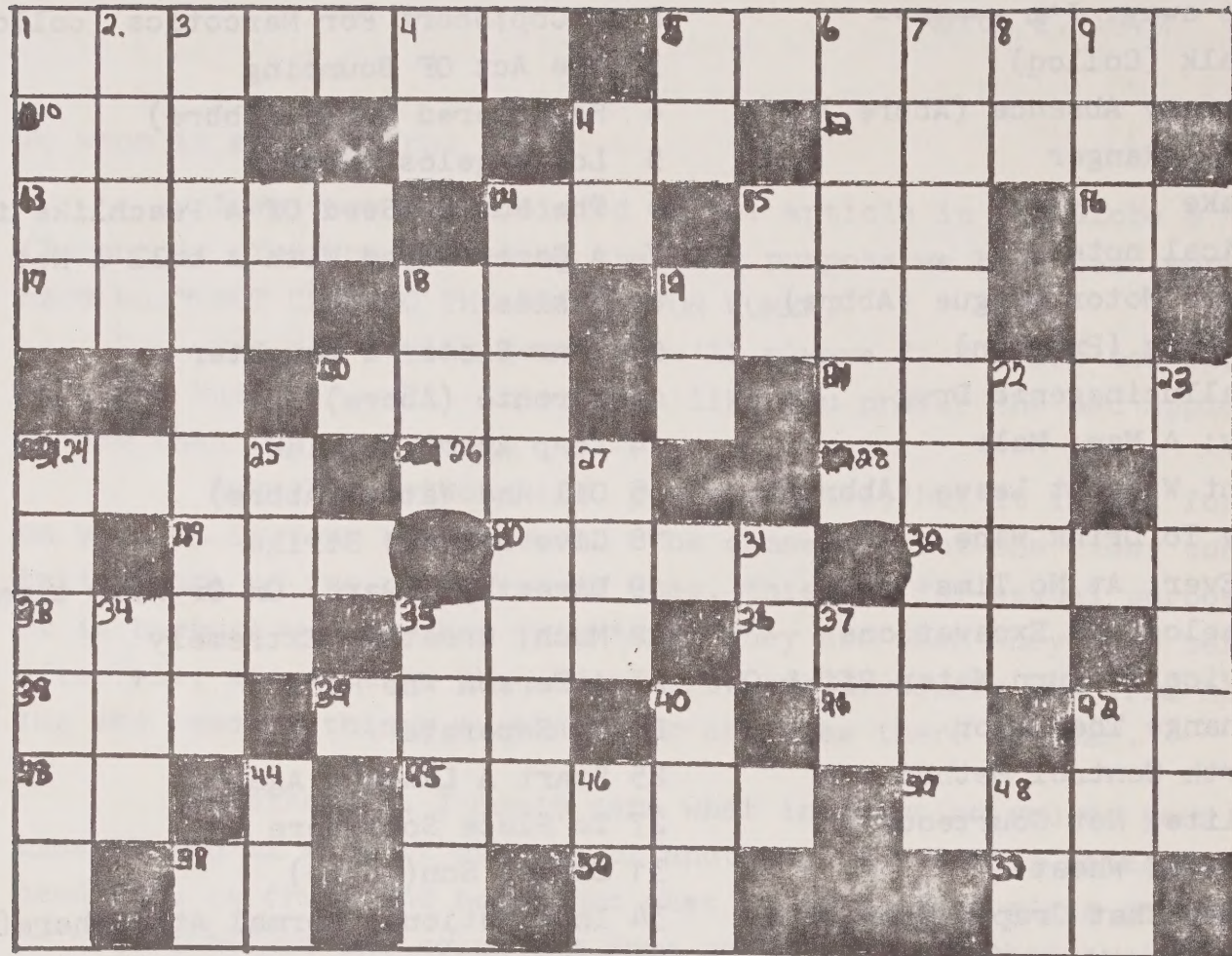
Across

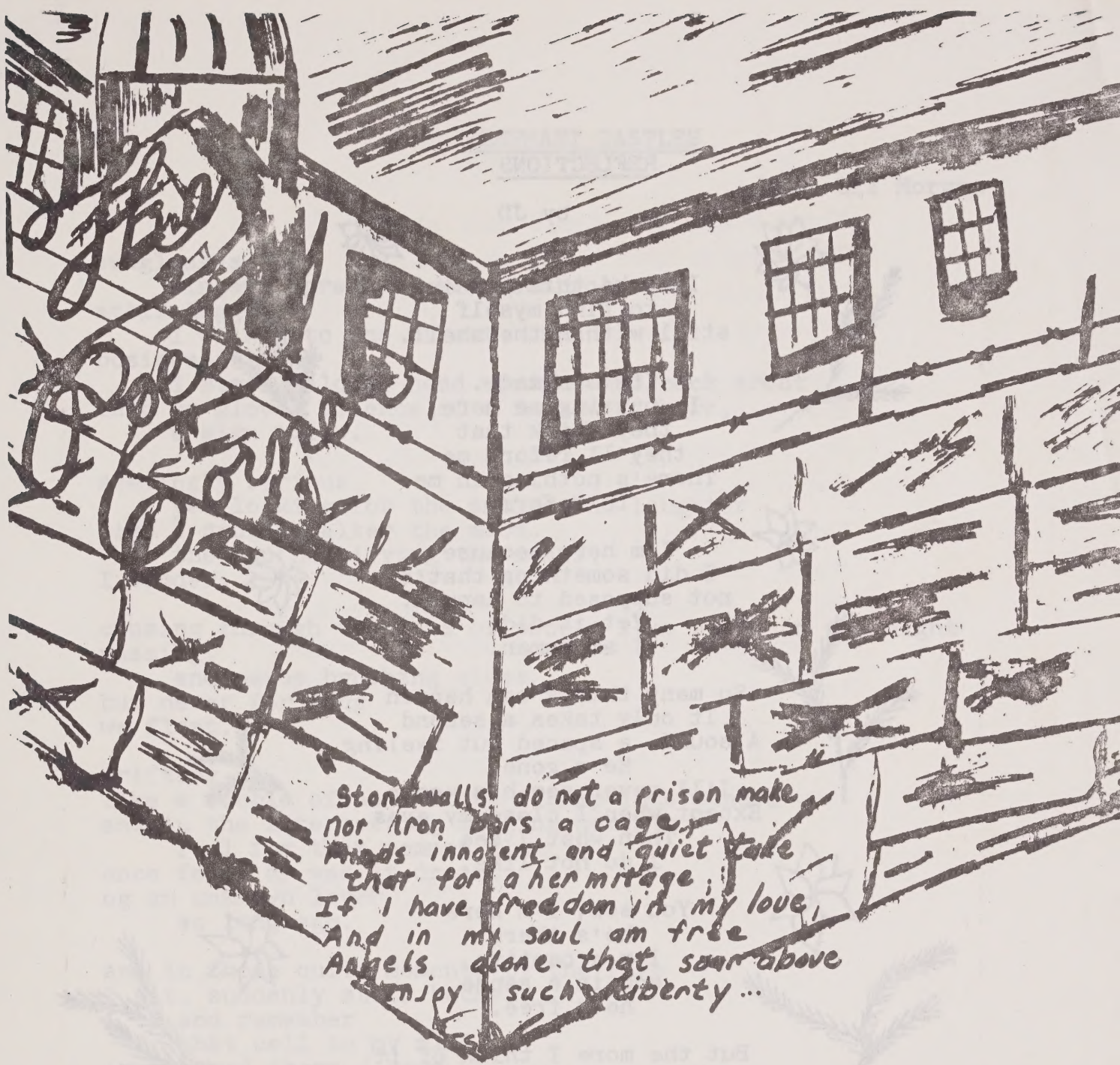
1. What you get from questions
5. To go away; I'm -----
- 10 To talk (Colloq)
- 11 Temporary Absence (Abbre.)
- 12 The-----Ranger
- 13 Mistake
- 14 Amusical note
- 15 Ontario Motor League (Abbre)
- 16 The thing (Pronoun)
- 17 An Hallucinagenic Drug
- 18 A Boy; A Man; Male
- 19 Absent Without Leave (Abbre)
- 20 A Way To Drink Wine
- 21 Not Ever; At No Time
- 24 Archaeological Excavations
- 26 A Device To Turn Water Off & ON
- 28 To Change The Color
- 29 A Birth Control Method
- 30 Impolite; Not Courteous
- 32 A Kind Of Wheat
- 33 A Plant That Grapes Grow On
- 35 An Article Worn On Head
- 36 Remain
- 38 A Verb Suffix (Present Participle)
- 39 A Rodent
- 41 Run's Arnolds On "Happy Days"
- 42 The Objective Form Of "I"
- 43 District Attorney (Abbre)
- 45 Belonging To A King
- 47 What You Are When You Lie
- 49 A Word Used To Express A Choice
- 50 Above And Supported By
- 51 Delirium Tremens (Abbre)

Down

- 1 The Amount Of Surface
- 2 A Cop; Short For Narcotics (colloq)
- 3 The Act Of Bouncing
- 4 Registered Nurse (Abbre)
- 5 Los Angelos (Abbre)
- 6 The Nut Or Seed Of A Peachlike fruit
- 7 A Game Played With A ball & Net
- 8 Inside
- 9 Your Sister's Daughter
- 11 Toronto (Abbre)
- 14 Keep Apart; Divide
- 15 Oil And Water (Abbre)
- 18 Give A Blow; Strike
- 19 Directly Toward; On Or Near time Of
- 22 Much; Greatly; Extremely
- 23 A Person Who Runs
- 24 To Separate
- 25 Start A Lawsuit Against
- 27 To Place Somewhere
- 31 Eldest Son (Abbre)
- 34 International Normal Atmosphere (abbr)
- 35 Solid And Firm
- 37 Target Area (Abbre)
- 40 A Metal Container
- 42 A Piece Of Material On A Floor
- 44 Net Register (Abbre)
- 46 Move Along; The green Light Means
- 48 Identification (Abbre)

This is the first puzzle in a series that were created and submitted by, Carol Townsend. Thank you Carol. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.



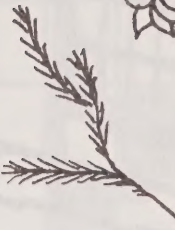


Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage,
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for a hermitage;
If I have freedom in my love,
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone that soar above
Enjoy such liberty...

— RICHARD LOVELACE

REFLECTIONS

by JD



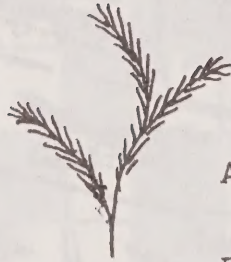
I awoke this morning
to find myself
still within the shell.



It's man made.
In putting me here,
they think that
they'll reform me
There's nothing in me
to reform.



I'm here because
I did something that's
not supposed to happen.
Yet it did,
I am human.



So many things can happen
It only takes a second
A sound, a spaced out feeling
He's gone,
I'll never see him again
Except when I close my eyes,
Then what I see
I do not like.



You see, I'm here
he's there
I'm a captive,
and in a sense
he's free.



But the more I think of it
They really don't have me
You see, my body's here
But my spirit is free.

ELEPHANT CASTLES

by: Liz Morgan

sunglasses on,

Fingers spread to keep control;
stiff legged,

I walk into the street, then
business like,

I stride along, head upright and back erect
into my gloved silence of a fast word here,
a sign there.

seemingly serious,

yet looking for the smiles and laughter
like a drug to alter the mood,

the end justifying the means,
I wander.

crusing through the seas of people like ships in the night
passing,

and maybe brushing sides
but never for long
we float.

drifting,

like a bubble of non-entity I bump into others
and in the intersecting merging moments

feel for that common glow
once felt, or was it dreamt
of an unknown lover
so long ago.

and in those quite moments by the fire
I sit, suddenly stiff backed

and remember
that cell in my mind
imprisoned there / here
futilely dreaming thoughts like these
and only sometimes writing them down

what has all this shown me,
this dreaming away a part of my life??

THESE WALLS

These walls have heard many stories

These walls have heard many sobs

Oh, think of all the glories

These walls have a terrific job

They stand alone and apart

They feel the cracks of violence

Oh, how they would like to start

These walls of silence

These walls are painted shades of colors

These walls are driven with nails and hooks

Oh, how they curse these MOTHERS

These walls that could write many books

These walls will always stand

These walls will always hear

Oh, they will take their brand

These walls that never fear.

Cat

(Carol Ann Townshend)

Untitled

....Tis I, my love, sits on your grave
And will not let you sleep;
For I crave one kiss of your clay-cold lips
And that is all I seek.

....You crave one kiss of my clay-cold lips
But my breath smells earthy strong.
If you have one kiss of my clay-cold lips
Your time will not be long.

Submitted By

Judie "Pie" Knott

UNTITLED

"Dear lord, guard my children tonight,
wherever they might be.
Take their little hands in your,
and guide them tenderly.
It's not their fault, their dad's a con,
and unfit as some may say.
Paint their feet to higher ground,
dont let them come this way.
Take their little hands in yours,
and guide them tenderly.
Don't let the critics of the world
scar their souls like me,
I haven't talked too much to you, lord,
and this might not be the way,
But of all the things I've learned in life
I've never learned to pray.
But tonight I thought that if I try,
you just might hear my plea.
And kind of watch my little ones,
they're only nine and three.
At these last words the lights went out,
and the corridors grew dim.
But from many a dark and lonely cell,
there whispered a soft "Amen".

Steve M.

Isabel Ogima was ill she claimed
"Tis the flu" authorities blamed
Antibiotics to her they gave
Two weeks later, she was in her grave

Oh Isabel, if only they knew
What a little understanding can do!
For who will pay, for damage done?
Someone Isabel, they haven't won.

You're not alone , of this I'm sure
Mistreatment, misjudgement, we'll find the cure
A day, a week, a month, a year?
It may be far, may be near

Why don't they listen?, We're human too
We feel sorrow, joy, or blue
We eat, smell and taste!
Why treat us like we're waste?

Isabel Ogima today is gone
But what her death stands for, will forever live on
Stash her file? Hide it away?
Do that! But justice will be done, soon, someday.

By Guy E. Prince

SOUL OF STONE

They who hold the keys to our freedom resemble nothing more than the sound of a medalling moun,

But nevertheless, I know not what fear is, my friend, for they cannot break a soul of stone.

These walls may hold our bodies but never will they hold nor control our soul nor mind..the fools,

They show us no human equality, kindness or sympathy; therefore in return, until and beyond eternity we will remain silent jewels.

They can never imprison the soul nor mind from eternal freedom and peace from you nor me,

Because deep within our sea we know that those who possess a soul of stone will always be free.

You my Babe, possess a soul of stone which will never crumble nor crack,

Because the finest qualities of a solid stone- you will never lack.

So the pig may squill and the bird may talk but us, my friend, we will never break,

For our souls of stone hold and control the most meaningful key- that is not a fake.

The rougher the road the harder we will pave the path to be free,

Because deep within we will always know that the outcome will be up to you and me.

So long live the smiling and solid soul of stone!
For the others are fools who in the end will be nothing but dirty demented bones!

Joanne Shanks.

My Dream of Reality

The big steel door closes behind me
It's like being temporarily dead
Everything stops
Except the thoughts in my head

My eyes turn dull and lifeless
My body is cold and damp
I remember how I feel
When I turn on the lamp

I want to stay in the dark
I do not want to see
This place where I

Am not me

And won't be till I am free

Cat

(Carol A. Townshend)

My life is not over nor has it started yet,
For no memories can make a thought
Of one's success you may get
For a notch in life can't be bought
Threw these gates I hope to pass
Again to try to make my claim
And to out live my fears at last
No fortune I seek nor fame
I seek only to let everyone know
I've made me a life and a name
By remaining free, this I hope to show
That my life is without bars and walls
Leaving it all behind me at last
And walking tall oh! so tall...

Tokyo, 79

THE TURKEY RACE

WHAT IS LOVE?

Love is sharing every day,
Love is caring come what may,
Love is giving from the start,
Love is living in the heart,
Love is happiness and tears,
Love is treasures through the years,
Love is all that makes life true,
For love is knowing I have you.



by: Baby Vatan.

THE TURKEY RACE

We are all turkeys in this troubled place.
Everyday is Thanksgiving for the human race
We never know whose turn it will be,
Yeah! It always happens so suddenly.
They say it was Adam and Eve
who caused the pain,
That's why we have to die to be born again
So live your life, people be honest and true
Cause we are all turkeys just passing through.

JUNIOR ST. OMER

Submitted by DJP.



FOUR GRAY WALLS, OH PLEASE SET ME FREE

Locked away in a cell four by ten,
Haven't got paper, haven't got pen.
Can't write to her, she won't write me.
Four gray walls, oh please set me free.

One big blanket and a black iron bed,
No satin sheets, no pillow for my head.
I think of her, does she think of me?
Four gray walls, oh please set me free.

Got me a number, twenty-one sixty-three,
My lunch here is water, but no tea.
There's hard white bread, can't see no meat.
Four gray walls, oh please set me free.

I once had a woman, she once had me,
Lost my freedom, she won Joe the "G".
I'm just a number, twenty-one sixty-three.
Four gray walls, oh please set me free.

Can't see the sun rise, can't see it set,
Haven't seen the moon, nor a wishing star yet.
Day and night, iron beds, dim lights I see.
Four gray walls, oh please set me free.

Four gray walls, oh please set me free,
Here's my number, twenty-one sixty-three.
Can't write to her, she won't write to me.
Four gray walls, oh please set me free.

by: Bobby Vater,

FOUR GRAY WALLS. ON PLEASE SET ME FREE

SEAN YARNIT

locked away in a cell four by ten.

Have a good night, have a good night.

Can't wait to see you, can't wait to see you.

Four gray walls, on please set me free.

One big black and a black from bed.

Four gray walls, on please set me free.

1. A	2. N	3. S	W	4. E	R	S	5. L	6. E	7. A	8. V	9. I	N	G
10. R	A	P			N	11. T	A	12. L	O	N	E		
13. E	R	R	O	R		14. S	O	15. O	M	L		16. I	T
17. A	C	T	D		18. H	E	19. A	W	O	L		C	
			N	20. S	I	P		21. T	N	E	22. V	E	23. R
24. D	I	G	S		25. T	A	P		26. D	Y	E		U
I		27. T	U	D		28. R	U	D	29. E		30. B	R	A
31. V	32. I	N	E		33. H	A	T		34. S	35. T	A	Y	N
36. I	N	G		37. R	A	T		38. C		39. A	L		40. M
41. D	A		42. N		43. R	E	G	A	L		44. L	45. I	A
E		46. O	R		D		47. O	N			48. D	T	

FOUR GRAY WALLS. ON PLEASE SET ME FREE

by: Bobby Vester

ENTERTAINMENT

We'd like to thank each and every group that came into entertain us during the past four months.

The Great Imposters were fantastic. Their costumes gorgerous, I for one sure envied quite a few of the costumes and I'm sure that I'm not just speaking for myself. It was a great show you put on for us.

Among other groups that came in to entertain us were First Company, and Grandpa. Thanks fellows. Thanks also to the youths who came in to play for us, E-Fry brought them in. Continue kids, someday you may make the "big times".

The movies as of lately have been good. "Saturday Night Fever" and "Grease" were super. I guess that's a matter of opinion. "Coma" rated number one amongst quite a few inmates. "Julia" and "Unmarried Woman" were fair. These are just among the few of many that were excellent.

We had a Bingo during the Easter holidays, sponsored by the inmate committee. Quite a variety of prizes, including one very cuddly bunny rabbit, to cuddle up to.

Well, thanks to all those who helped sponsor (inmate Committee) our bingo and those responsible for the great entertainment that we've been having lately.

A cause and effect are one

The aphorism, "as man thinketh in his heart, so is he," sets forth and portrays all the experiences and conditions of his life. Man is what he thinks all day long, and his character is the totality of his thinking. Cause and effect are as absolute and undeviating in the hidden realm of thought as in the world of visible and material things. Man's joy and suffering are the reflections of his habitual thinking. Thus does a man garner the sweet and bitter experiences in his life.

In order to experience good luck or bad fortune, realize that you are the master of your thoughts, emotions, and reactions to life. You are the maker and shaper of your conditions, experiences and events. Every thought felt as true, or allowed to be accepted as true by your subconscious mind, blossoms sooner or later into act, and bears its own fruit of opportunity and experience. Good thoughts bring forth good fruits; bad thoughts harvest bad fruit.

It is not cruel fate that sends a man to jail or to the poor house, but it is the pathway of vicious, destructive, or criminal thinking which he had been secretly fostering in his heart. When these reached a point of saturation in his subconscious mind they were precipitated into external experiences of his negative thinking.

The above was an extract from the book "The Miracle of Mind Dynamics" by Joseph Murphy, D.D., D.R.S., Ph. D., LL.D.

THOUGHTS FOR TO HANGOUT WITH

Submitted by J.D.

A government which perpetuates the crimes of war and repression has no right to prescribe punishment for those who resist the continuation of the worldwide-death and misery. Prisons promote terrorism by making the denial of human and democratic rights a respectable and common thing.

Rita D. Brown.

All imprisonment is a violent of the body. The acts for which people are incarcerated are at their roots outcries for liberation from unbearable restrictions...Today the feminist awakening shows us how prison is the terminal station of the patriarchal rigidity.

Judith Malixa

After the murderburger - and the goon squads and the tear gas. What is left? I mean, after you know that God can't be trusted. After you know that the shrink is a pusher. That the word is a whip-and the badge is a bullet. That outside and inside are just an illusion. What is left?

Assata Shakur.

It maybe that none of us can escape from solitary confinement we've condemned ourselves to (out of fear, out of pride, out of the dying of the heart) until we find ourselves in actual prisons of iron and stone...when everything else we have put our hands to is gone, the granite and steel cemented by our pitiless morality will remain as monument and gravestone to our time.

Kay Boyle.

Librarian

Centre of Criminology

Rm. 8054

130 St. George Street

Toronto, Ontario

M5S 1A5

